



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FDA Urges Consumers to Avoid Products with Peanut Butter as Recall List Grows

CHEYENNE (January 20, 2009) - Based on existing information and the current state of the salmonella investigation, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is urging consumers to postpone eating commercially-prepared or manufactured products that contain peanut butter until further information comes available about which products may be affected.

At this time, the FDA has traced one likely source of Salmonella Typhimurium contamination to a Georgia plant owned by Peanut Corporation of America (PCA), which manufactures both peanut butter that is institutionally served in such settings as long-term care facilities and cafeterias, and peanut paste-a concentrated product consisting of ground, roasted peanuts-that is distributed to food manufacturers to be used as an ingredient in many products including cakes, cookies, crackers, candies, cereal and ice cream.

The current list of voluntarily recalled items due to the salmonella outbreak now include products with peanut butter as an ingredient including Clif and Luna branded bars, select Kroger ice cream products, ZonePerfect bars, Meijer branded peanut butter crackers and ice cream, Ralcorp frozen bakery products, South Bend Chocolate Company candies, Little Debbie ® Peanut butter Toasty and Peanut Butter Cheese Sandwich Crackers, Hy-Vee bakery products, and Austin ® and Keebler ® branded sandwich crackers.

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture continues to contact establishments across the state as recalls are announced to get the recalled products off the shelves as soon as possible. Along with this, the WDA will conduct spot checks at various establishments like grocery stores and child care centers throughout the state to help ensure the recalled products are not being consumed.

“It is imperative that consumers pay attention to these recalls and the status of the FDA investigation to avoid eating possibly contaminated products,” said Dean Finkenbinder, Manager of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Consumer Health Services Division. “In addition to consumers, it is especially important for retailers, food banks, charitable organizations, child care facilities and other food service operations to be aware of the recall to ensure the safety of the community in which they operate.”

While the investigation continues and the PCA Georgia plant has been temporarily shut down, the FDA urges consumers to identify recalled items in their home and discard them. The FDA is working closely with members of the food industry to narrow this advice and to publish a detailed list of implicated products as soon as possible. The FDA will closely monitor these events by continuing to work with the firms on the details of their actions, conduct follow-up audits and inspections, monitor the progress of the firms' actions, and notify our foreign regulatory counterparts of products that may have been distributed internationally.

For a complete list of recalled items and more information on the investigation, please visit <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>.